

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing mass mailings by using sorting machines which have at least one material input and a distributing device for distributing the mailings at distribution points in accordance with ~~the~~ distribution information for the mailing, characterized in that ~~the~~ individual mailings of a mass mailing are shrink-wrapped at ~~the~~ a sender in strips of film, hanging together to form a strip of bags, are dispatched hanging together in this way in a strip of bags and, at ~~the~~ a respective destination, are threaded as a strip of bags into the sorting machine by a transport device belonging to the material input, and are then separated from one another by means of a separating device, and in that, after that, by means of an acceleration device, ~~the~~ gaps between the film bags necessary for the further processing in the sorting machine are produced.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, at the sender, in order to produce a strip of bags, the mailings of the mass mailing are led one after another between two endless film strips unwound from rolls and belonging to a packaging unit, in which they are shrink-wrapped completely without subdividing the film strips.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together are stored in fan-fold form in appropriate transport containers and are transported to the destination.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together are stored in roll form and are transported to the destination.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the

strip of bags with the shrink-wrapped mailings is provided with perforations at the sides, and the threading transport device of the material input of the sorting machines has transport gear wheels which engage in the perforations.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, following shrink-wrapping, each film bag is provided with an address sticker or imprint.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that transparent films are used.

8-9 (Canceled).

10. (New) A method for processing mass mailings by using sorting machines which have at least one material input and a distributing device for distributing the mailings at distribution points in accordance with distribution information for the mailing, characterized in shrink wrapping the individual mailings of the mass mailing at a sender in strips of film, hanging together to form a strip of film bags each containing an individual mailing, dispatching the strip of film bags hanging together to a respective destination, threading the strip of film bags into a sorting machine by a transport device belonging to the material input, separating the film bags from one another by means of a separating device, and accelerating the individual film bags, by means of an acceleration device, to produce gaps between the film bags necessary for the further processing in the sorting machine.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that, at the sender, the mailings of the mass mailing are led one after another between two endless film strips unwound from rolls and belonging to a packaging unit, in which they are shrink-wrapped completely without subdividing the film strips to produce a strip of bags each containing a mailing.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized by, at the sender, storing the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together in fan-fold form in appropriate transport containers

and transporting the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together to the destination.

13.(New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized by, at the sender, storing the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together in roll form in appropriate transport containers and transporting the shrink-wrapped mailings hanging together to the destination.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in providing the strip of bags with the shrink-wrapped mailings with perforations at the sides, and engaging the perforations with transport gear wheels of the transport device of the material input of the sorting machines.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that, following shrink-wrapping, providing each film bag an address sticker or imprint.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in shrink-wrapping the mass mailing in transparent films.